SOUVENIR BOOK

MANCUNICON

Eastercon 2016

The British National Science Fiction Convention

DUBLIN
IRELAND
2019

A Worldcon for All of Us

A BID TO BRING THE WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION TO DUBLIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

AUGUST 15TH – AUGUST 19TH 2019

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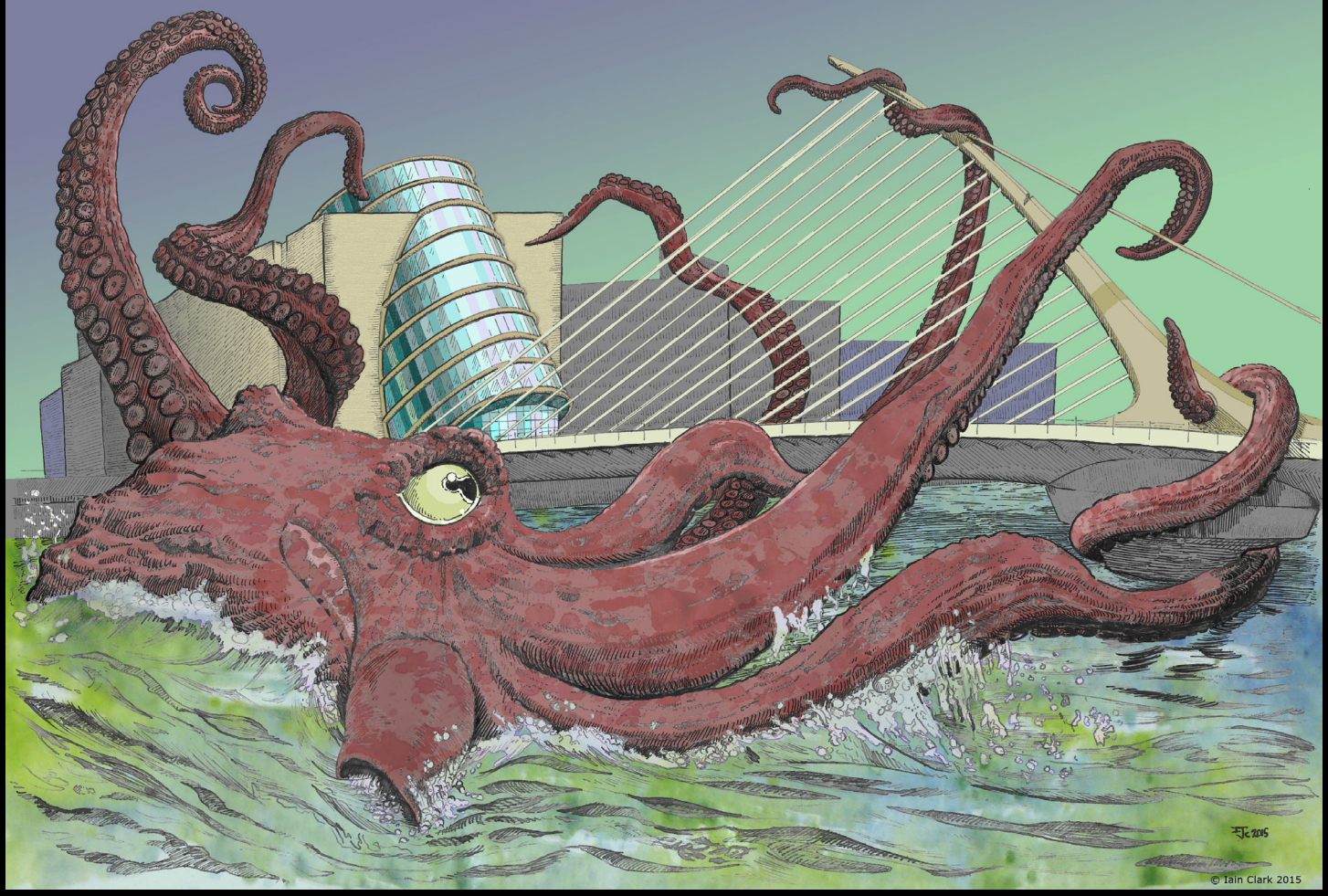
Ireland has a rich tradition of storytelling. It is a land famous for its ancient myths and legends, great playwrights, award-winning novelists, innovative comics artists, and groundbreaking illustrators. Our well-established science fiction and fantasy community and all of the Dublin 2019 team would consider it an honour to celebrate Ireland's rich cultural heritage, contemporary creators and fandoms everywhere.

We love our venue, the Convention Centre Dublin, and we believe that its spell-binding allure will take your breath away as you watch the sun set over the city before the Kraken rises from the River Liffey!



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MANCUNICON

Eastercon 2016
The British National Science Fiction Convention
25-28 March 2016
Hilton Deansgate Hotel, Manchester, UK

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon and welcome to Mancunicon's Souvenir Book.

I hope you had a good time and look back with fond memories. I think Manchester treated us very well, I don't think I drank the same beer twice all weekend, and there were hardly any complaints. Though please let's not talk about the too small programme rooms any more, please!

So, Democracy. Democracy and the Future of Eastercons.

I think Eastercons are deeply democratic – we have a system for choosing our leaders in free and fair elections; we encourage active participation by all our members; we protect the rights of all our members; and we have a rule of law, in which rules apply equally to all our members. (*Everyone* must wear their badge!)

I know there's no written constitution and the whole process can be anarchic and rough around the edges sometimes, but an Eastercon is a great example of a functioning democracy.

This democratic spirit affects our behaviour in lots of ways, some obvious, some less so. The Art Show for example, doesn't pick and choose from prospective exhibitors, it's more or less first come, first served. The same goes for the dealers' room. Moderators in Programme items are encouraged to let conversation go where it will and encourage audience participation. Almost all events held in convention space are open to all members. All volunteers are members, who have bought their membership and paid for their hotel. The Committee is made up of people who are interested in putting on an Eastercon, and they're all paying their own way as well. Your level of involvement in Eastercon programme depends on your level of interest and the contribution you can make, not on how important or professional you are.

So, at the moment the only people who get to decide anything about an individual Eastercon are the membership, acting through the Business Session; and the Committee elected by that membership. There's really strong precedent for this. Can an Eastercon be held in Jersey? Do we need a written constitution? Can a Chair be replaced by the Committee? What happens if a Committee resigns early enough for a Business Session to replace them? What happens if a Committee resigns too late for a Business Session to replace them?

On and off over the 20 or so years I've been coming to Eastercons, there's been discussions about what changes we need to make and how we need to make them. Currently we're dealing with a cluster of very practical problems about continuity and links between individual Eastercons – copyrights and trade marks, bank accounts, data protection, artshow boards, security and safety reports, historical hotel information, DBS Checking and child protection, the Eastercon wiki – that could use practical solutions. We have actually found solutions to some of these – in the usual disorganised and slightly anarchic way – but some of these continue to be headaches for each individual Eastercon.

What makes this current set of problems different is that we, the membership acting through the Business Session, have appointed a group to look for answers and try and find long-term solutions. They've done a lot of detailed work and they're getting close to solutions. While the Future of Eastercons group had no official role at Mancunicon, the Mancunicon Committee did attempt to get them involved and to try out some of their ideas at a real event. We also had some ideas of our own we tried out.

Based on that experience, I have some comments for you, the membership to consider.

First, if we do create some sort of permanent *Eastercon, Inc* board we'll have to be very, very careful how much control we give them over individual Eastercons. Giving them even quite trivial controls over **requiring** all Eastercons to use particular bank accounts or websites or companies could quite distort the existing

balance of power. I trust I don't need to explain why giving some unelected group broad powers over Eastercons would be a really bad idea – would you want this group to preapprove bids, for example?

One issue is that it's already very difficult to find a suitable hotel. So if the group placed a requirement on hotels for future bids that could make finding a hotel impossible. Even something very reasonable sounding like *all the program rooms and bedrooms must be in the same hotel*, or something minor like *the hotel must have enough chairs in the bar for a standard Eastercon*.

Second, we need to look closely at who gets to be on this board. The most recent proposal I've seen is to use recent Eastercon Chairs and give them permission to co-opt others. Trust me, a sitting Eastercon Chair already has too much power in our anarchic democracy! And Eastercon Chairs are typically people who like to *do* things, just the sort of people who will try and place requirements on future bids.

There are better choices – we could elect people from the Business Session for fixed terms; we could decide that anyone who'd ever been elected by the Business Session to a Committee could be involved if they wanted; we could allow *anyone* who's a member of an Eastercon to join this *Eastercon, Inc*; we could decide every Eastercon Chair ever; we could decide every decision has to be agreed by the Business Session. The larger versions of these groups would be anarchic, unwieldy and slow to make changes or decisions, but I think *slow-to-make-decisions* is a necessary feature not a bug. We don't need to do anything in a hurry, we need to do stuff properly.

Thirdly, a lot of innovation comes from the Eastercon Committees and we want to make sure those Committees remainempowered. For an example of something we did, remember my comment above that I feel the role of Chair is over-powered? To a large extent a Chair can do what they want. If a Chair does something unreasonable or harasses somebody, there is no-one the Membership could complain to. The Chair is supposed to be subject to the same rules as everyone else and the membership's only option is bloody revolution.

I realised I wasn't comfortable with this, it went against my democratic principles; so Mancunicon appointed an Ombudsman, someone for the members to complain to if they felt the Chair or Committee behaved unreasonably. There were some complaints, but with the Ombudsman's help they were resolved to the membership's satisfaction.

Every Eastercon should have an Ombudsman. And every Eastercon should have the freedom to innovate and experiment.

Thank you

Finally, thank you for letting me use my position as Mancunicon's Chair to share these thoughts with you. Being elected to be the Chair of an Eastercon by you guys was one of the highlights of my life, and I've tried all the way through to be worthy of that trust. Thank you to everybody for everything!

Pat McMurray
Chair, Mancunicon

ALIETTE DE BODARD, GUEST OF HONOUR

I've been going to Eastercon since 2008: the only one I missed was the 2014 in Glasgow (I had a nursing baby, and we were headed to the Worldcon in London a bit later in the year!). It's always a fun time for discovering new books, meeting friends old and new, and hanging out in the bar for far longer than reasonable!

When Dave Lally asked me if I wanted to be Guest of Honour at Mancunicon, I was therefore over the moon, and much looking forward to the con. In conversation with Emma England, I hit upon the idea of offering a cooking demo as a change from the usual panels, feeling (at the time) only mildly stressed that in spite of my passion for cooking, I had no experience in public demos, and not much either in the way of holding people's attention in a solo item.

Fast forward a couple of months, and things are looking very different. I managed to drag the fabulous Zen Cho to Manchester as my guest. I'm also seven months pregnant, and under strict doctor's orders to not over-strain myself if I don't want to give birth prematurely. As a result of which, the cooking demo has suddenly been upgraded to a double act, with Zen filling in for the stuff I won't be able to do (like standing up for most of the demo, a prospect that was emphatically shot down by my doctor), and I try not to angst.

It does not start auspiciously: the kitchens of the Hilton are confusing, the crate of supplies is intimidatingly big for something that was supposed to be a simple dish, and when we walk into the room it's full of people (a positive sign but not one that helps with my levels of angst).

Fortunately, it's cooking. Along with talking SFF, it's one of the things I could do in my sleep. There are a few technical issues: it's really hard to do a cooking demo when the closest source of running water is outside the room, and even a simple thing like washing knives turn into an adventure. And cooking demos, it turns out, are a bit like cooking in the kitchen of a rental place: you never quite know what you're going to get. In particular, getting used to the knife took more time than I'd planned: it turned out that talking and chopping a shallot at the same time can be a very risky activity (I didn't cut myself, but I did have to markedly slow down on the talking). Fortunately with two cooks there's always someone talking.

And then there's the infamous "bowls with holes" incident, aka the one thing we'll remember about this cooking demo for *years*. The demo involved pouring boiling water into a bowl to cook some rice noodles. Everything went well up to the "pouring water" part, when we suddenly discovered that the bowl only looked waterproof: it had a hole in it (don't ask me why. This isn't my dream bowl design). Of course, we only found that out after the entire tablecloth turned into a swamp. A cursory examination of all the bowls confirmed that yes, all of them had holes, and that, no, none of them were going to be useful to hold any sort of liquids. We make do, but it's a really awkward moment.

But overall it's all gone swimmingly well: Zen and I bounce off each other in awesome ways (apparently we have a future as a comedy cooking duo, if writing and engineering/lawyering fail us), the food is coming together, looking and smelling good, and the audience is

engaged, watching us chop shallots and beefs and asking lots of questions. And, at the end, people queue up to eat the dish, a sure sign of success.

Would we do it again? Heck, yes. We're planning to submit a cooking demo to programming for the Worldcon in Helsinki in 2017, and hope for another chance to wrangle knives and chopping boards!

They might not understand why we ask for bowls with no holes, though.

Bò Bún (beef on rice vermicelli)

Ingredients
220g beef
160g bun noodles
2 shallots, chopped
1 tablespoon nước mắm
2 big garlic cloves, chopped
1 stalk lemongrass
1 tablespoon sugar
4 sprigs mint leaves, or to taste
4 sprigs coriander, or to taste
80g soy beans, washed
A handful roasted unsalted peanuts
4 big salad leaves
Nước chấm dipping sauce, to taste

Instructions
1. Make the beef marinade: mix together the nuoc mam, garlic, lemongrass and sugar. Cut the beef in thin slices, mix with the marinade, and leave for half an hour (longer if you can).
2. On a medium stove, cook the beef until it's done. Cover, and take away from the stove.
3. Pour boiling water on the bun noodles, and mix them with chopsticks until they turn opaque white and are no longer brittle. Drain the noodles and leave them to cool.
4. Pound the peanuts into small pieces with a mortar and pestle.
5. Put the bowls together: put half the noodles in them, followed by the beef, followed by the salad torn into small bits, followed by the soy beans, mint, coriander, and crushed peanuts.
6. Add about 3 tablespoons of nước chấm, or to taste. Mix well, and eat.

Nước chấm (basic dipping sauce)

Ingredients
Basic measuring unit: juice of one lime
2 units of nước mắm
2 units of sugar
4-6 units of water
1 garlic clove, chopped into small pieces
1 teaspoon of chilli garlic sauce (I use Lee Kum Kee, which is medium hot, since the point isn't to take out your taste buds)

Instructions
1. Mix everything, and leave to settle in the fridge for a while (ideally, overnight, but it still works if you leave it around ten minutes. It needs to settle, though, don't skip that part).

Note
If you're NOT using 35° fish sauce (and if your bottle of nước mắm carried no inscriptions, chances are you're using the US standard of 20°), adjust by 20/35.

Bò cuốn (wrapped beef rolls)

Ingredients
220g beef
160g bun noodles
2 shallots, chopped
1 tablespoon nước mắm
2 big garlic cloves, chopped
1 stalk lemongrass
1 tablespoon sugar
4 sprigs mint leaves, or to taste
4 sprigs coriander, or to taste
One big salad (iceberg, for instance)
1 carrot, julienned into matchsticks
1 cucumber, julienned into matchsticks
Rice papers
Nước chấm dipping sauce, to taste

Instructions
1. Make the beef marinade: mix together the nước mắm, garlic, lemongrass and sugar. Cut the beef in thin slices, mix with the marinade, and leave for half an hour (longer if you can).
2. On a medium stove, cook the beef until it's done. Cover, and take away from the stove.
3. Pour boiling water on the bun noodles, and mix them with chopsticks until they turn opaque white and are no longer brittle. Drain the noodles and leave them to cool.
4. Assemble the rolls as you eat them: one roll is a bit of beef, a bit of noodles (*not* too many!), 3-4 soy beans, 1-2 carrot bits, 1-2 cucumber bits, a few salad leaves, and a sprinkling of coriander and mint.

DAVID L. CLEMENTS, GUEST OF HONOUR

When I was growing up someone who worked on space missions, studied the origins of the Universe, the evolution of galaxies, and who was starting to search for signs of life in our own Solar System would have sounded like a character in science fiction. Add to that a dabbling in writing both fiction (science fiction of course!) and non-fiction, as well as teaching at a world ranking university and this person begins to sound rather far-fetched.

And yet that is now my daily life. I type this sitting on a 777 airliner about to take off for Hawaii where I'm meant to be using one of the large telescopes on Mauna Kea to look for dust in galaxies inside distant galaxy clusters only a couple of billion years after the Big Bang. The encroaching tropical storm Derby must only be there to add dramatic tension.

How did I get here?

The glib answer is that I walked down the jet way to the plane, but the real answer involves science fiction and the fannish community of which Eastercons in general, and Mancunicon in particular, are great examples. My initial interest in science was sparked in equal measure by Apollo and related NASA projects, and by the SF of the late 60s/early 70s – *Dr Who*, *Thunderbirds* and the rest of Gerry Anderson, *Star Trek* and the like. Even shows that might be taken as ostensibly anti-science, like *Doomwatch*, still used science to identify and deal with whatever was the menace of the week. From all this I learnt that science was an effective way to learn the world, to make it better, and that it was not only the wave of the future but the only way we were going to get there.

Fandom arrived for me when I got to university, in the form of the Imperial College Science Fiction Society, ICSF. They had a library – at that time this meant a couple of cupboards full of books in an obscure part of the Students Union building – and their own convention, Picocon. The second of its name was the first con ever I went to (what happened at Picocon 1 is still lost in the mists of history) and gave a glimpse of a broader community of SF fans who were not only interested in SF but many broader issues related to science, space, the future and much more. I liked Picocon so much that the next year I agitated for the society to run another.

The result of that was my first smoffing, not that I knew it at the time, and I became chair for Picocon Pi and then the society as a whole. Promoting Picocon Pi and later instances

brought me to the Tun and London fandom in general, making friendships that have lasted the subsequent 30 years. I liked running Picocons so much that I got involved with an Eastercon bid that culminated in the 1992 Eastercon, Illumination.

Throughout all of this I was talking formally and informally at conventions and fan meetings about the science I was doing. Making sure that there was a significant science element in the programme at the cons I was involved with was also becoming something I did. When you work every day in a field like astrophysics being surrounded by people pushing back the frontiers of knowledge seems ordinary, but the true extraordinariness of it was brought home to me by my fannish friends who helped me not only keep my head a little outside the clouds, but also fed me their excitement and enthusiasm for what I was doing.

In 1995, Simon Bradshaw, John Bray, Amanda Baker and I ran the science programme at the Glasgow Worldcon, Intersection. I realised I had found my fannish calling, and have been running science programming at a wide range of conventions ever since, mixing real science guests with writers and expert fans in ways I hope are interesting, approachable and informative.

Fandom also brought me to Manchester for the first time, when I was part of the senior staff for the 1998 Eastercon, Intuition.

Unlike Mancunicon, with its futuristic arcology of a hotel, Intuition used two different hotels, split across a busy road, that were more historical in architecture. They're both still there. The long winding staircases of the Victorian-styled Britannia and the oddly shaped concrete brutalism of what is now the Mercure seem largely unchanged.

Despite the science-fictionality of my day job, the most unlikely thing that has happened to me is being an Eastercon Guest of Honour, GoHs were distant figures of mythical proportions when I started going to Eastercons. The idea that I might one day join such a hallowed company didn't even occur to me until Dave Lally and Pat McMurray approached me one evening to ask if I was interested. Appropriately enough this happened at The One Tun, the pub where I first started going to fannish gatherings, and to which the London Fannish Circle had returned for Christmas.

Being a GoH is hard work, but it's the kind of work that doesn't seem like work at all since you're doing it for people who are so amazingly enthusiastic and engaged. It's only when you get home and realise you (or at least your liver) need a holiday that you realise you've hardly stopped moving or talking to people for 5 whole days.

It's an experience I'd recommend to anyone and the Mancunicon committee did us proud. And, in the inevitable way of fandom, I'll now turn to our con chair, Pat, and say those words that strike fear into the heart of conrunners –
"So – when are you planning to do Mancunicon 2?"

SARAH PINBOROUGH, GUEST OF HONOUR

Sarah Pinborough is the number one *Sunday Times* bestselling and *New York Times* best-selling author of the psychological thriller *Behind Her Eyes* (Jan, 2017). During her career she has published more than 20 novels and several novellas, and has written for the BBC. Her recent novels include the dystopian love story, *The Death House*, and a teenage thriller, *13 Minutes* which has been bought by Netflix with Josh Schwartz adapting.

Behind Her Eyes has sold to nearly twenty territories so far and was sold at auction to the US in a significant deal to Flatiron, Macmillan. There are discussions on going with several movies studios about the film adaptation. You can follow Sarah on Twitter at @sarahpinborough.

IAN McDONALD, GUEST OF HONOUR

Ian McDonald's first science fiction short story was published in 1982, followed by his first novel in 1988 and is particularly known for setting his books on Earth in the developing world. As well as his writing he has worked in television as a Network Development Researcher.

A winner of a *Locus* award, a Philip K. Dick award, a Theodore Sturgeon award, a John W Campbell Memorial award, a Hugo for Best Novelette and multiple BSFA awards, Ian has also been nominated for many others including the Arthur C Clarke award, Nebula award and World Fantasy award. He was born in Manchester, but was raised and still lives in Belfast. He was a Guest of Honour at the last Manchester Eastercon.

MANCUNICON MEMORIES

TOMMY WAREING

That was a whale of a time. Like any whale, it's always a bit of a surprise when it appears in low orbit, and descends at high speed. We had a year to put the whole shenanigans together, and I need to say thank you to everybody who came and supported the convention. We couldn't have gotten away with it, if it weren't for you darn kids!

DAWN GREEN

My first Sci-Fi conference, in my own creation: 'fighting fairy'. Nervous but LOVED everything. From project managing the capture of gigantic future astronomical data sets, in an unknown format, arriving via dishes scattered around the world [gulp!] to the only adult belting out the words in the sing-a-long-a-Frozen. Magical!

JACEY BEDFORD

Mancunicon: Foreign territory to this Yorkshire lass even though it's just a few miles over the hill from woolly Huddersfield to Cottonopolis. Living in the past? Maybe. I write in the past and the future, so living in the present always seems slightly unreal.

PETER HEDLEY MABEY

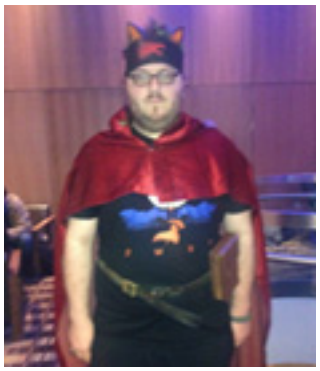
90 last Monday. I was really touched by the number of people who signed my birthday card.

Not really enough sitting around space. Like having a fan lounge.

NICK LARTER

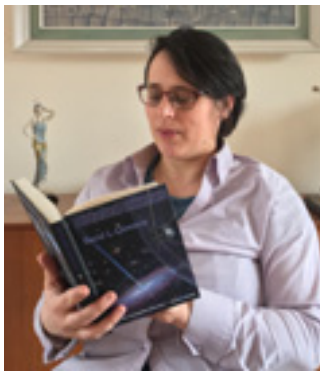
Thanks to everyone who participated in or attended my 'Open Mic' reading session, we had a blast!

LEE HILBERT



Had a fun time at Mancunicon, especially the LARP and in the games room.

AMANDA BAKER



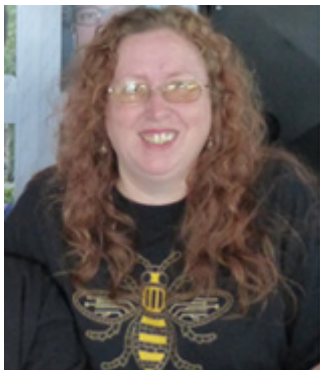
A genuine volunteer...

TOBES VALOIS

When asked if he would write a few words for the souvenir book wrote:

"A Few Words"

MELICA SMITH

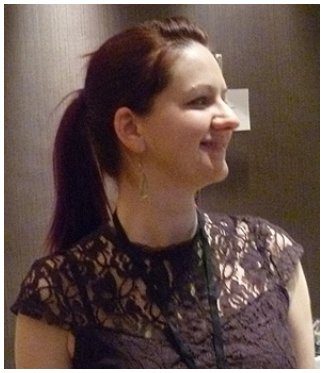


It was great to have an Eastercon in my adoptive home town and I would like to say a big thank you to all the guests and volunteers for their involvement in Mancunicon.

ED FORTUNE

Mancunicon was my first ever Eastercon, much to the surprise of everyone except me. It was everything I hoped it would be, and an awful lot of fun as well.

NELLY PETROV



This has been a great Eastercon. I supported the Dublin 2019 bid, drank plenty of beer and played werewolves till late.

MARION PITMAN

Mancunicon refreshed the parts other bees could not reach.

DUNCAN MacGREGOR

If I had a brain left I would say something here.

(Said on Monday lunchtime.)

MARK MEENAN

Had a good time at Mancunicon.

Great choice of beer.

JAMES SHIELDS (LOST CARPARK)

Over the years I have come to regard you all as “people I met”.

HELENA McCALLUM

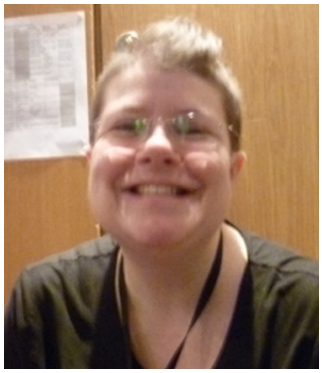
Nearly lost my hat in the wind! Enjoying my time promoting Lazlar Lyricon 3.

DAVID HADDOCK

I think my 9th Eastercon in a decade but the first in costume.

A new and exciting experience.

SARAH HADDOCK



I came, I tatted, I conquered.

I taught other people to tat and now my army is ready…

JC

The M6 robbed me of 6 hours of Mancunicon that I want back!

KEV McVEIGH

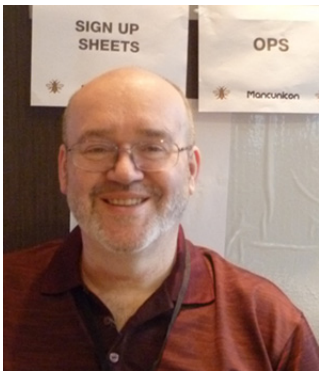
Mancunicon has been the first con in years where I had a room, so why am I so tired? Must be all the fun, or something.

DONNA SCOTT

My Mancunicon has been awesome.

I've knitted three rows of cable and two rows of hair (vertical).

THE MAGICIAN



Sitting at Ops. The great thing is that you get to meet people and help them. You can also buy drinks using the money in the TAFF voting box ☺

RON GEMMELL

This convention has convinced me that it is about time I finished my latest fanzine!

JOSH GEMMELL

It was a brilliant way to meet old con friends!

MANIAC

It's only a coke because they won't let us drink on duty. (Another Ops martyr).

LILIAN EDWARDS

I got to go on and on about *Daredevil*.

DAVE LALLY

Despite the restrictions on numbers (fire limits), the dealers and hotel (beer) are over the moon and panels (despite space problems) we have been told are also excellent.

KYLIE DING

It was lovely being warm and cozy in the hotel watching the rain and the hail outside! Oh and the con was fun too ☺

RENTAWITCH

I like Mancunicon because like most Eastercons it's big enough to have lots of content, small enough to be friendly. Great mix of silly & serious. Lego robots v. Jodrell Bank & Gravitational waves anyone?

JULIET KEMP

Mancunicon: an ideal mix of people, panels, and the odd drink.

DOUGS

It's somehow pleasing to come to a Manchester Eastercon and find that the convention hotel and the hotel in which I am sleeping are on opposite sides of a main road. Pity it's not snowing…

Mancunicon, the 67th Eastercon, was also my 67th convention – a coincidence I found absurdly pleasing.

I'm currently working on making Worldcon 75 my 75th convention.

DAVID T COOPER

My thoughts on the con...Didn't see much of it to be honest, spent most of the time reconciling payments and in huddles with the committee, but of the programme: Art Show Party – brilliant way to view the Art Show, glass of wine in good company; 53 years in 50 rels – great fun but what about Nyssa? Tanith Lee - great author whose work I admired, unique voice, great loss; Guests of Honour – great guests, especially Sarah, she is our sort of people; Committee, still friends, would do it again but not anytime soon!

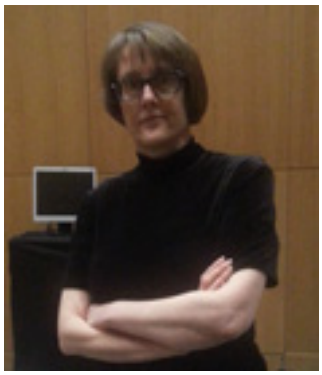
JAN VAN'T ENT

Wonderful convention.

Waggly newsletter.

Even managed a little programme, in the morning, and Manchester provided lovely Indian and Chinese restaurants to keep me going.

DAWN ABIGAIL



Mancunicon saw my initiation into the fun-filled world of the Art Show and the joy of bringing your work to people who want to buy it!

CRYSTAL HUFF

Many thanks to the Eastercon community for this Mancunicon. We hope our tales from Worldcon 75 planning were helpful/ informative and not too sleep deprived! We are happy to invite you all to join us in August 2017 in Helsinki, Finland! It's possible we will have less jet lag then although probably still sleep deprived ☺

DC

I've always liked Manchester, so I was enthusiastic about getting Eastercon there again. I never doubted we could pull it off, even under the unusual pressure of time we faced. Partly that was because it was a great team to be in, capable and fun to work with. The Guests of Honour were not just all talented, each was lovely to deal with. From Sunday morning on, random people kept stopping me to tell me what fun they were having. My abiding feeling about Mancunicon is that I wish I could go back in time and simply attend the con.

MICHAEL DAVIDSON

Drank too much, ate too much, met lots of friends. Brilliant!

CHRISTINE DAVIDSON

← Wot he said.

JUDI HODGKIN

Stick a few gears on it and call it Steampunk. The bees flew off the table.

SATU, TAIKA & JAN H

First Eastercon for the whole family, great experience. Already signed up for the next one!

NICHOLAS JACKSON

I've had a splendid time - thanks so much to everyone who made it happen. The highlight for me was probably Colin Wright's lecture on the mathematics of juggling.

STEPHANIE & JAMES

Fantastic people. Great friendly and fun atmosphere. Only our second Eastercon but always enjoy ourselves. See you all next year.
https://geekyclean.com/

FIONA MOORE

Every day at Eastercon I took a selfie under the big staircase, here's Day One.

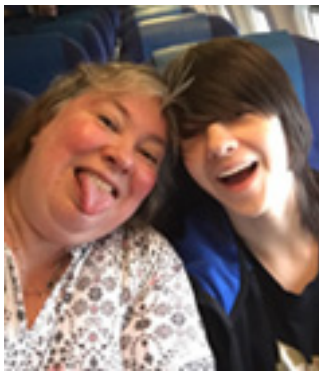
GENKI GEAR

Fantastic and warm experience as always. A joy to be here. Looking forward to the next one.

JEAN THOMPSON

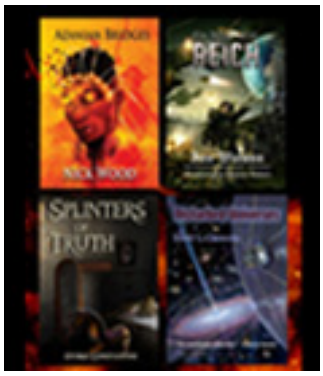
I enjoyed Mancunicon, worked in Ops, met up with friends old and new. A good weekend.

DYLANNE & POG



Dyllanne and Pog were at Mancunicon. They liked the Nutella muffins at the bar.

NICK WOOD



Nick Wood was thrilled to be at Mancunicon for the launch of his book *Azanian Bridges*, amongst other wonderful books launched by NewCon Press.

DAVID WAKE

David Wake launched the third steampunk adventure in *The Derring-Do Club* series, *The Derring-Do Club and the Invasion of the Grey*, at Mancunicon. .

EMMELINE PUI LING DOBSON

Mancunicon was my first Eastercon and an enjoyable opportunity to meet and engage with geeks of all sorts in the sci-fi and fantasy fandom. Around every corner were new things to learn and new ways my mind was challenged. The range of beers was also fantastic!

MARTIN HOARE

I've done a lot of work.

We started the con with 2,800 pints of beer and 700 pints of cider. The beer came from 17 different local breweries and we have 36 different types of beer. We also have 5 different types of cider and perry.

I am absolutely knackered.

NICKY & PETE CROWTHER

A fantastic convention meeting good friends launching great books and wonderful to be situated in the middle of a busy city within easy reach of all it has to offer..

IAN WATSON

Here is the magnificent Barcelona Eurocon table for our convention, 4, 5, 6 November 2016 hosted by Dinah the A.I. dinosaur. The table that is to say, rather than the Eurocon itself. The dragons of Barcelona might become jealous! Dinah says join online now because we have a limit of 800 members. Do not risk disappointment.

www.eurocon2016.org

ERIC STEELE

Eric Ian Steele: screenwriter, horror novelist, comic book aficionado and zombie poet. Highlights of Mancunicon include the pub quiz from hell, the world's highest book launch and sushi for breakfast.

IAN WHATES

Mancunicon proved a thoroughly enjoyable Eastercon; interesting programme streams and a great venue, situated at the heart of the city.

MARTIN SMART

My God, it's full of bees!

CLARE BOOTHBY

Clare has been volunteering for things again...

FREDA WARRINGTON

Thank you, Mancunicon, for the opportunity to celebrate much-loved fantasy author Tanith Lee, who sadly died in 2015. Our tribute panel, with writers she considered her 'nieces', included Storm Constantine, Liz Williams, Sarah Singleton, Kari Sperring, Tanith's widower John Kaiine, and myself. Storm launched *Night's Nieces*, a story collection, in loving memory of Tanith.

RICHARD COUNSELL

Had a great time at Mancunicon and met some amazing artists and designers, the event itself was exceptional and I enjoyed exhibiting my art at the show, looking forward to the next time.

LORD ASHRAM

After working at Loncon3 I made a beeline ☺ for Mancunicon.

There I found friends from other conventions and had a great but tiring time working OPS. The convention had a great atmosphere and equally good beer selection.

PETER R ELLIS

I had a great time at Mancunicon particularly at the launch of the last part of my trilogy, *Unity of Seven (Evil Above the Stars Book 3)*, published by Elsewhen Press. The room high in the skyscraper provided fantastic views over Manchester, a distraction to my reading perhaps.

RICHARD STEPHENSON

Hollywood sent Oscar to offer the legend that is Richard Stephenson the standard rich and famous contract. But he chose to go to Mancunicon instead as that is where all the hippest froods would be.

GINA / STEVIE CARROLL

I really enjoyed Mancunicon. There always seemed to be enough space to mingle in the bar area, and while some of the rooms were a little small to accommodate everyone that wanted to attend particular panels, the size also made for a refreshingly friendly atmosphere in which to discuss the various topics.

MAD ELF

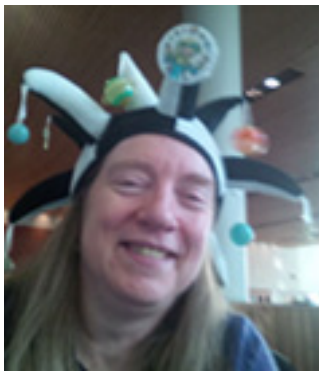
A (at that time yet to be appointed) member of the Satellite 6 committee who attended Mancunicon.

P.S This is NOT a shameless plug

P.P.S. Crowne Plaza, Glasgow, 25–27 May 2018

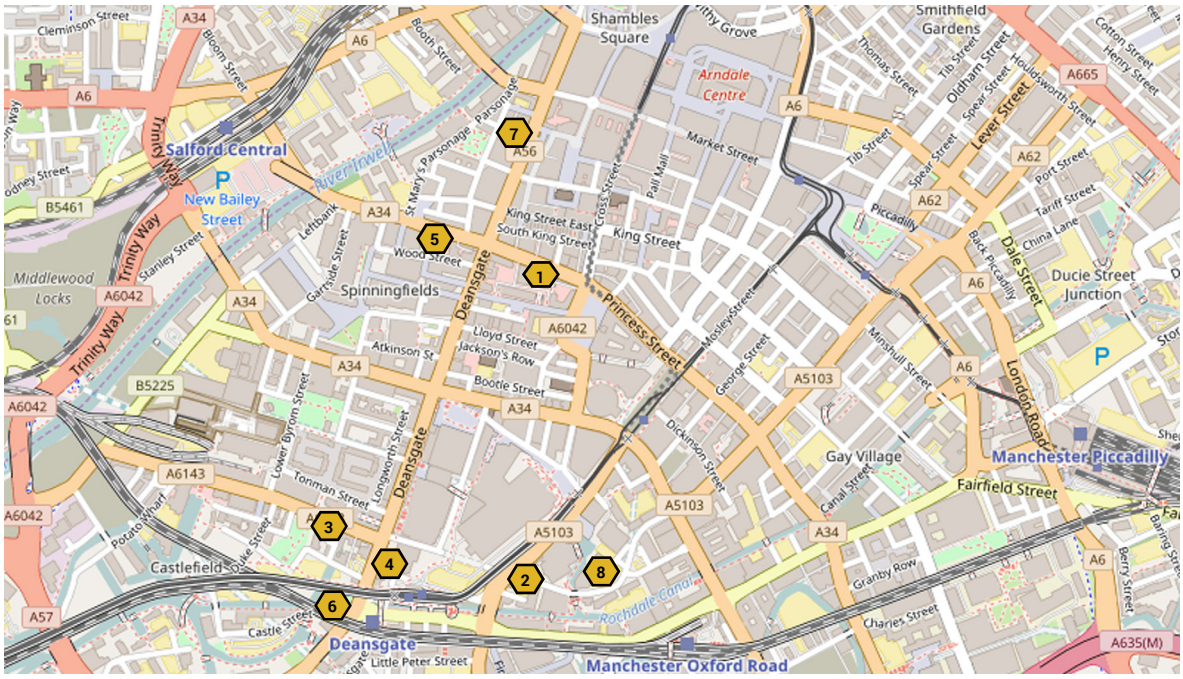
P.P.P.S. Ok, so it IS a shameless plug!

CAROLINE MULLAN



Docent tours of Mancunicon were led by Caroline Mullan, Mark Meenan and Alison Scott, guiding small parties round the various areas of the convention, and learning something about how the con happens. We hope to make this a regular feature of future Eastercons.

REAL ALE AROUND BEETHAM TOWER



1 **THE APE AND APPLE** 30 John Dalton Street, M2 6HQ. A Joseph Holt's bar and Holt's is one of the cheapest quality ales you can buy anywhere. There is a rooftop beer-garden smoking area too.

2 **THE BRITON'S PROTECTION** 50 Great Bridgewater Street, M1 5LE. A beautifully designed pub chopped into smaller snug rooms surrounding the central bar which serves from the front and through side hatches. The beer selections are great and the Briton's also offers an extensive menu of hundreds of whiskies & bourbons, many of them quite rare.

3 **CASK BAR** 29 Liverpool Road, M3 4NQ. A small blue looking building you'll see on route to the science & Transport Museum. As well as its four real ale pumps Cask offer a great selection of internationally imported ales.

4 **THE DEANSGATE** 321 Deansgate Manchester, M3 4LQ. Seven real ales to choose from, while surrounded by photos of Manchester from yesteryear. Even the pub sign is unusually a photograph rather than a painting.

5 **GASLAMP** 50a Bridge Street Manchester. M3 3BW. Very easy to miss, this basement bar used to be a Victorian refuge centre for children from Manchester and Salford. The rooms are divided by partitions and much of the original tiling survives. There are many fine wines offered here as well as modern craft beers.

6 **KNOTT BAR** 374 Deansgate Manchester, M3 4LY. Located very close to the con hotel, Knott Bar is spacious, offers up to eight guest ales, plus real ciders, and has a superb pub-grub range. There is a very good open air balcony to sit on upstairs too.

7 **THE MOON UNDER WATER** 74 Deansgate Manchester, M3 2FN. One of the biggest bars in the city, this Wetherspoons inn is a former cinema, with lots of upstairs rooms and the full range of ales and food you would expect at a Wetherspoons.

8 **PEVERIL OF THE PEAK** 127 Great Bridgewater Street Manchester, M1 5JQ. The name comes from a famous stagecoach which broke all records for the fastest journey times between Manchester and London. The pub was its starting point for the journeys. The stagecoach itself took the title from an obscure novel by Sir Walter Scott. The unusual wedge shaped bar and yellow-green tiling create a unique building. The beer selection is ever changing and excellent. It's also one of the few bars at which you can also still play table football.

WOBBLEVISION

The 2016 Eastercon in Manchester saw the *Blake's 7* Wobblevision team continuing with the filming of the Big Finish full-cast audio series with Drones.

The action starts on Straxis where Cara Petrus (left) and Bru Renderson are discussing plans. Things are not going well and so…

…Bru decides to give Blake a call.

Meanwhile, on the Liberator, things are also not going well. The Liberator is damaged after the events in the last episode, Zen has turned his back on them and is not talking, and Orac has taken control of the ship.

Vila and Cally go looking for space suits as life support is threatened.

The Liberator though has decided to land under the Straxis sea while it carries out repairs...

...continues at http://bit.ly/2nGEAZV

OLDEST & YOUNGEST FAN

Mancunicon was a very special Eastercon for us, as it was our first with Sylvianne in tow. Elsewhere, much was being rightfully made of Peter's many years of attendance. We thought it would be a nice piece of fannish history to get a picture of the two of them together, to express the sort of community spirit and cohesion that represents Fandom at its best.

- Misha Sumra

This picture shows Peter, who had just celebrated his 90th birthday, holding Sylvianne, the daughter of Zoe and Misha who was then only 3 months old. Sylvianne has since attended Nine Worlds, Redemption and the Bromley Science Fiction Festival. Zoe tells me that "Reports of Sylvianne and Oswin Proctor putting together a Worldcon bid for 2060 are scurrilous rumours and should be ignored wholesale."

In 90 years time it will be the 22nd century and there will undoubtedly be pictures of Sylvianne at another convention holding a 3 month old child and welcoming them into a life of fannishness. So it goes...

- Jim Mowatt

Follycon
The 69th British National Science Fiction Convention
Four days of talks, panels, exhibits and events celebrating science fiction and fantasy in all their forms.
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
Attending membership £60 till 1 May 2017, then £70. Join online or by cheque (payable to Eastercon 2018) to Follycon, 19 Uphall Road, Cambridge, CB1 3HX
Christina Lake
Photo: Brian Parker
Nnedi Okorafor
Photo: Jim Hines
Kim Stanley Robinson
Photo: AllyUnion
Kieron Gillen
The 2018 Eastercon,
30 March to 2 April 2018
www.follycon.org.uk

DOC WEIR AWARD

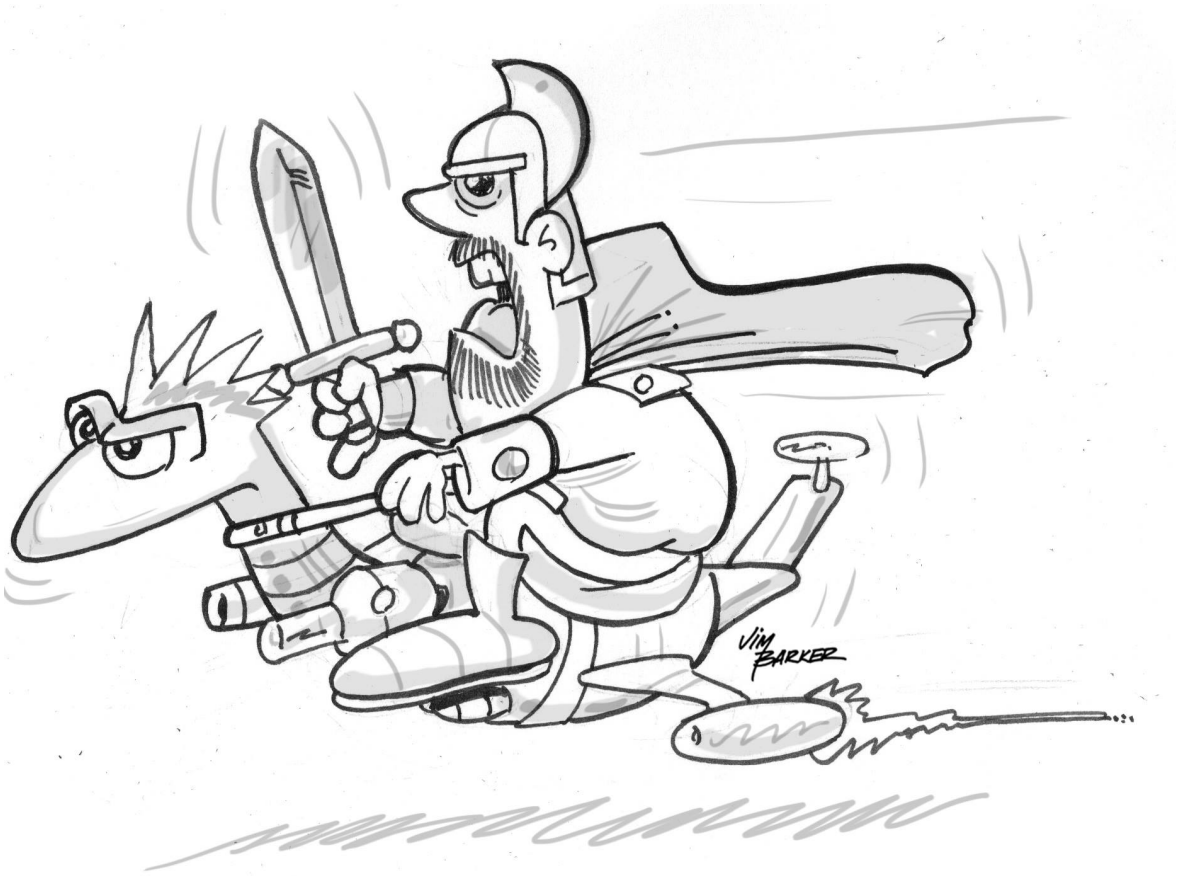
The Doc Weir Ballot form has this to say about the award:
The Doc Weir Award was set up in 1963 in memory of fan Arthur Rose (Doc) Weir, who had died two years previously. Weir was a relative newcomer to fandom, he discovered it late in life – but in the short time of his involvement he was active in a number of fannish areas. In recognition of this, the award is sometimes seen as the "Good Guy" Award; something for "The Unsung Heroes".
Fandom needs volunteers. Conventions, clubs, fanzines – they all require an extensive workforce, people who do "stuff" for no financial reward. Some people have a high-profile role but there are many who don't, whose involvement goes almost unnoticed and may even be taken for granted. In some respects, the ideal Doc Weir Award candidate is the sort of person who doesn't immediately spring to mind but makes perfect sense if somebody else suggests them.

The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy says:
It's a lovely little cup for putting things in.

Peter Mabey, who was the very first recipient of the award way back in 1963, says:
When the BSFA agreed to apply the money collected as a memorial to Doc Weir to buying a cup to be awarded (the original plan was to buy his SF collection fell through as it turned out he wasn't a collector) the Cheltenham SF Circle was asked to decide on the category.
As we did not want to duplicate any existing awards (and rejected the idea of leaving it to the BSFA, as we were closer to him than any other fans), we decided that it should be an open award. I remember suggesting that the nomination should take the form "I would like [Fan] to receive the award for [fanac]", but we eventually agreed that if fans didn't know why someone had been nominated, they probably hadn't done enough to deserve the award.
Consequently, as I did not attend Bullcon a.k.a. Petercon 1 (my father had died that year, so I wanted to visit my mother at Easter) and so was rather embarrassed when the CSFC fans came back with the award for me. The award did not come as a total surprise, as at that time the BSFA Library was operating as a postal lending library. so that much of my spare time was taken up with dealing with requests (with the help of John Humphries, another member). However, if I had been asked at the time who I thought the first recipient, I would probably have suggested Archie Mercer (the next one) or one of the other fans who were honoured later. I am very happy that the Award has developed into what it is now, as if it had remained as recognition of any specific activity I think it would have eventually died for lack of suitable nominees, as fandom is so broad that no person is likely to be universally recognised.

Kathy Westhead, who won the award at Mancunicon, says:
People outside SF fandom often react with surprise to the idea that our conventions are organised by a bunch of us working together voluntarily to make it all happen. The Doc Weir Award is a way of recognising one of those volunteers each year, by the presentation of a silver cup, engraved on the base and box with the names of the previous winners.
It's voted on by members of the Eastercon, with a simple ballot that says, basically, write in the name of the person you think should get the award this year. It was a complete shock when Martin Hoare, the 2015 winner, gave my name at the closing ceremony of Mancunicon, and I was basically speechless when I went up onto the stage. So I'd now like to thank everybody who voted – it really is lovely to feel so appreciated. And a particular delight was that the first person to congratulate me was Peter Mabey, the first winner of the award, in 1963 (which is about the time I started reading SF, though I didn't start going to cons until the late 1970s).

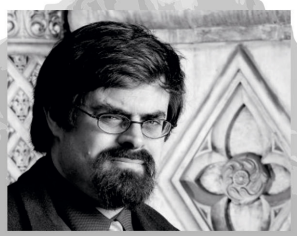
Now, who are you going to vote for at this year's Eastercon?



NOVACON 47

10 - 12 November 2017

NOVACON! We are in our 47th year and show no signs of stopping... despite the petition. So why not come along and join the fun?



GUEST OF HONOUR
ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY

This year's Guest is the amazing Adrian Tchaikovsky, author of the 2016 *Arthur C. Clarke Award* winning *Children Of Time*, as well as the best selling *Shadows Of The Apt* series and a host of other works. Over the weekend he will be giving a talk, signing books and, hopefully, anything else we can rope him into.

Our longevity must mean we are doing something right, and you can find out just what it is for a reasonable fee (just to be clear, the fee is for joining.... We don't charge for the information).

With our signature combination of G.o.H talks, science talks, panel items and general tomfoolery, we can promise you a packed weekend of fun (no refunds), excitement (definitely no refunds) and things of interest (see previous comments).

This year we are, once again, at the Park Inn, Nottingham. Which is a hotel... in Nottingham. The Hotel is close to the city centre, is easy to reach by public transport and has good parking facilities.

To attend, just go to our website at www.novacon.org.uk where you can join online using Paypal.

MANCUNICON COMMITTEE & STAFF

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Hotel Liaison: Fiona Scarlett
IT Magic: Tommy Wareing
Logistics and Guest Liaison: DC
Membership: Steve Lawson
Treasurer: David Cooper
Volunteers and Guest Liaison: Melica Smith
The Ambassador: Dave Lally

STAFF

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Art Show: Julie McMurray
Beer Wrangler: Martin Hoare
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- **Social Media:** Marianne Cain, Paul Taylor
- **Web site:** Paul Taylor
- **Pre-con publications:** David Haddock
- **ReadMe:** Alan Sullivan
- **Newsletter:** Flick, Jan van' t Ent
- **Multimedia Whizz:** Jim Mowatt
- **Ribbons and shirts:** John Coxon
- **Souvenir Book:** Jim and Carrie Mowatt

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Dealers' Room: Kirsti van Wessel
Gophers: Joss Konrad-Lee, Kate Wood
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Hotel Support: Ming
Ops: Eddie Cochrane
- **Loading Bay Chief:** Mark Young

Party Organiser: Marcus Streets
Programme Database: Henry Balen, Grenadine
Programme Team
Liz Batty, John Bray, Carol Connolly, Niall Harrison
Registration: Martin Smart
- **Badges:** Alan Bellingham, Colette Reap

Secretary: Stuart Jenkins
Tech: Peter "Smudge" Smith

Mancunicon greatly regrets that we didn't have a Children's Programme. This was because it proved too difficult to resolve the legal requirements in the short period of time we had, and we received legal advice that a single incident would put the Committee's homes at risk. We want to acknowledge and thank the hard work of the **Children's Programme Team**:

Team Leader: James Bacon
Team: James Shields, Alissa McKersie, Sara Felix, Adela Terrell, Emma J King.

DINAH'S MANCUNICON REPORT

Mancunicon took place in a corridor. I could see quite well both ways from my tableland, or mesa which I know is a Spanish table. Opposite me was Ops, which must mean opposite. So I wasn't too confused, although humans of different sizes suddenly vanished and other humans suddenly appeared instead. I often have gaps in existence.

Most humans were good at rubbing me under my chin and on top of my head and along my back the way I like it. One human put a bright pencil labelled Barcelona in my mouth instead of my food-leaf or my tug-of-war stone. Barcelona was okay to bite.

The humans vibrated lots of noises and sometimes fed each other chocolate or pieces of Catalan sausage which must be made from cats. I could see into a big room where the humans swapped small sheets of coloured paper for blocks of paper with all sorts of signs on them. Sometimes a human asked another human to put his name inside a paper block, near the front.

My name is Dinah because I am a baby dinosaur. I am a girl dinosaur. There were both Mans and Womans at Mancunicon, and small humans too. I sensed that I was on a tableland with precipices on all sides. A human called this Roar-aima. So I roared. And I panted. Outside of Mancunicon was a hurricane of rain and wind. Maybe an asteroid caused this. Humans at Mancunicon vibrated about asteroids, and androids. I do not like asteroids.

Half of my mesa was named Barcelona. The other half was named New Orleans. After a while I trod in the swamp of New Orleans. Behind my mesa on the other side of a cliff was a very big cave, with chairs. Humans crowded into the big cave to hide from the hurricanes and asteroids.

There were also small caves. Caves are not for dinosaurs. My parents went into a small cave with a big friend to vibrate about Spanish Si-Fi. I live in Spain. My parents have no tails. Maybe my tail will fall off when I stand up tall like my parents. I watched Godzilla. I roared and panted.

I came to Mancunicon in an airy plane named Easterjet. In the airy port my parents woke me to prove I am not a bomba. I roared and panted. But in the airy plane I must sleep in case I harm the lektronics of Easterjet.

When I am older and fifty feet long I will fill the Mancunicon corridor. I do not want fifty feet because that is half a centipede. I am Dinah. I was at Mancunicon. This is my con report.

SOUVENIR BOOK CREDITS

Commissioning & cat herding
Jim Mowatt

Editing & layout
Carrie Mowatt

Artwork
Front cover, Eira; Mancunicon bee, Alison Scott; Lowry man in black, Eira; Bee-r map, © OpenStreetMap contributors; Bee-autiful cross-stitch, Daughter of Thog; and Bee-knighted, Jim Barker

Extra help
Alison Scott, David Langford, David Haddock

Articles
Pat McMurray, Arthur Chappell, Peter Mabey, Jim Mowatt, Kathy Westhead, David L. Clements, Aliette de Bodard, Sarah Pinborough, Misha Sumra, Ian Watson, A cast of thousands (well, 64)

Photographs
Steph Morris, Diana Kartojudo, Jim Mowatt, Carrie Mowatt, Wobblevision Team, David L. Clements, Zoe Sumra, Caroline Mullan, Helen Sansum, Richard Stephenson and many other busy bees.

MANCUNICON MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME
1	Ian McDonald
2	David L Clements
3	Aliette de Bodard
4	Sarah Pinborough
5	Enid Crowe
6	Zen Cho
7	Pat McMurray
8	DC
9	David Cooper
10	Steve Lawson
11	Susanne Rebel
12	Fiona Scarlett
13	Melica Smith
14	Tommy Wareing
15	Dave Lally
16	Dave Tompkins
17	Incognito
18	Tim Kirk
19	Martin
20	Nicolai
21	Arwel Parry
22	Harpal Singh
23	The Magician
24	Julie McMurray
25	Carl Allery
26	Chris Stocks
27	Chris Bell
28	Jean Thompson (Rhionnach)
29	Tony Cullen
30	Neal Tringham
31	Kathy Taylor
32	Ian Taylor
33	Austin
34	Caro
35	Fuzz
36	David Wake (David Wake)
38	Gareth Kavanagh
39	Peter James Chalower Redfarn
40	Heather Turnbull
41	Steve Mowbray
42	Jacey Bedford
43	David John Edward Tamlyn
44	Tibs
45	Joan Paterson
46	Tibbs
47	Michael Ibbs
48	Hans-Ulrich Boettcher
49	Christopher Brooks
50	Adrian Emery
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54	Graham Bates
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129	John Moran
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131	Judi Hodgkin
132	Genevieve Hodgkin - Hemsley
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134	Teresa Stokes
135	Meike
136	Jim de Liscard
137	Julian Heathcock
138	Gillian
139	Stephen Rothman
140	Dan Smithers
141	Lucy Smithers
142	Nathaniel Smithers
143	Jonathan Smithers
144	Matthew Smithers
145	Smitty
146	Ming
147	Sue Edwards
148	Eddie Cochrane
149	Mark Young
150	Nigel Heffernan
151	Pauline Morgan
152	Chris Morgan
153	Simon
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155	Kate
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166	John Stewart
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168	Christopher Southern (Chris Southern)
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170	Mali Perera
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172	Alan Webb
173	Ali Nouraei
174	Dr Bob
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182	David Farmer
183	Fritz Urban Gunnarsson
184	Louise Dennis
185	Gwendolen Sellers
186	Bill Sellers
187	Clare Boothby
188	Kate
189	BFG
190	½r
191	Herman
192	Larry van der Putte
193	Silas
194	Malcolm H
195	Feline
196	Russell Alistair Smith (Russell A Smith)
197	Linnéa Anglemark
198	Johan Anglemark
199	Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf
200	Jonathan Holmes
201	Yee Ping Voon
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205	David Stokes
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207	David Laight
208	Tanaqui Meyer
209	Victoria Anne Stokes
210	Anne Fenwick
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213	Smuzz
214	Lisa Konrad
215	Amanda Baker
216	Shana Worthen
217	Colin Stewart
218	Wren Worthen-Stewart
219	Jackie E Burns
220	Anne Sudworth
221	Keith Scaife
222	Inamac
223	Susan Booth
224	Mike Scott
225	Flick
226	Phil Nanson

228 Bridget Wilkinson
229 John Dallman
230 Paul Dormer
231 A G England
232 Andrew Patton
233 Margaret Walty
234 Marcus Streets
235 Andrew Bigwood (Andy Bigwood)
236 Mike Richards
237 Alison Richards
238 Paul Van Oven (Paul V O)
239 Anne Woodford
240 Caroline Mullan
241 Brian Ameringen
242 Emjay Ameringen
243 John Bray
244 The Bellingham
245 Colette
246 Huw Walters
247 Sarah Walters
248 Kari Sperring
249 Rhodri James
250 Jonny Nexus
251 Ingo Rohlfs
252 Eckhard Marwitz
253 Steve Rogerson
254 Duncan MacGregor
255 The Legend that is Richard Stephenson
256 Peter Harrow
257 Michael Abbott
258 Christine Davidson
259 Senji
260 Shadow
261 Lulu Kadhim
262 Omega
263 Murphy's Lawyer
264 Hal Payne
265 Jodie Payne
266 Julia Daly
267 Scott Dennis
268 Chris Priest
269 Nina Allan
270 Jane Cooper
271 Matthew Cooper
272 Libby Cooper
273 Paul Taylor
274 dakkar
275 William Hay
276 Nicholas Whyte
277 Lexin
278 Liz Batty
279 Alison Scott
280 Steven Cain
281 James Bacon
282 John Jarrold
283 Marianne Cain
284 Francesca T Barbini
285 Rob Malan
286 Ian Whates
287 Eliza Chan
288 Vincent Docherty
289 Munchkin
290 Laura Vasco
291 Jackie Duckworth
292 Vaughan Stanger
293 Kamal Hashmi
294 Nick Sheridan
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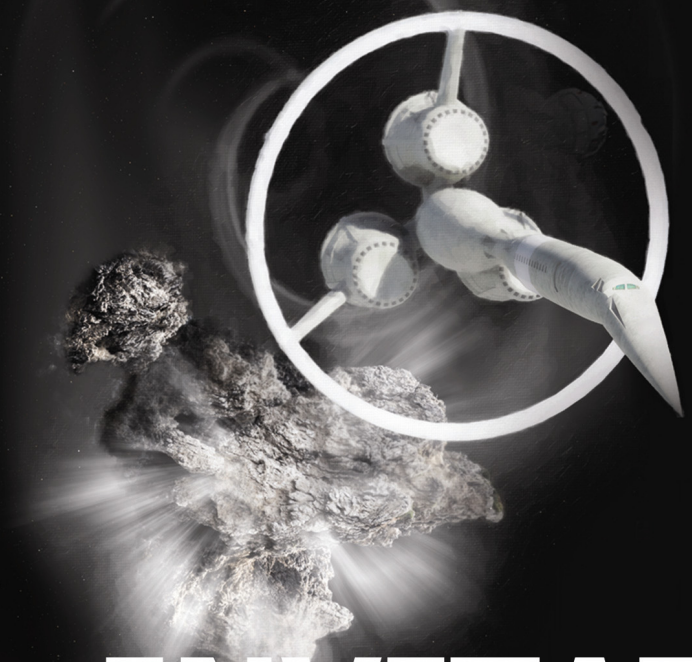

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